Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11 have been amended and new claims 13-15 have been added.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (AMENDED): An image processing apparatus comprising:

a detecting part which detects ~~means for detecting~~, in an inputted ~~entered~~ image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

a generating part which generates ~~means for generating~~ a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced ~~at the periphery of~~ from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion ~~image signal~~, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting part ~~means~~;

a separating part which separates ~~means for separating~~ a color signal from the image signal; and

a suppression part which suppresses ~~means for suppressing~~ the separated color signal by the control signal.

2 (AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first storage part which stores ~~means for storing~~ an output from said detecting part ~~means~~, wherein said generating part ~~means~~ generates the control signal in dependence upon an output from said first storage part ~~means~~; and

a second storage part which stores ~~means for storing~~ this control signal, wherein said suppression part ~~means~~ suppresses the color signal using the control signal read out of said second storage part ~~means~~.

3 (AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by image sensing part ~~means~~, and said detecting part ~~means~~ detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part ~~means~~ as the high-luminance portion.

4 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control signal has a waveform for obtaining a suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

5 (AMENDED): An image processing method comprising:

~~a detecting step of~~ detecting, in an inputted ~~entered~~ image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

~~a generating step of~~ generating a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced ~~at the periphery of~~ from the detected ~~sensed~~ high-luminance portion toward the periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting ~~image signal;~~

~~a separating step of~~ separating a color signal from the image signal; and

~~a suppression step of~~ suppressing the separated color signal by the control signal.

6 (AMENDED): The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

~~a~~ first ~~storage step of~~ storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating step generates the control signal in dependence upon this stored high-luminance portion; and

~~a~~ second ~~storage step of~~ storing this control signal, wherein said suppression step suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored control signal.

7 (AMENDED): The method according to claim 5, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part ~~means~~, and said detecting step detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part ~~means~~ as the high-luminance portion.

8 (ORIGINAL): The method according to claim 5, wherein the control signal has a waveform for obtaining a suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

9 (AMENDED): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing:

detection processing for detecting, in an inputted ~~entered~~ image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

generation processing for generating a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced ~~at the periphery of~~ from

the detected ~~sensed~~ high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting processing ~~image signal~~;

separation processing for separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppression processing for suppressing the separated color signal by the control signal.

10 (ORIGINAL): The storage medium according to claim 9, said storage medium further storing:

a program for executing processing for storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating processing generates the control signal in dependence upon this stored high-luminance portion; and

a program for executing processing for storing this control signal, wherein said suppression processing suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored control signal.

11 (AMENDED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part ~~means~~, and said detecting processing detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part ~~means~~ as the high-luminance portion.

12 (ORIGINAL): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the control signal has a waveform for obtaining a suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

13 (NEW): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the prescribed waveform two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery, and said suppression part two-dimensionally suppresses the separated color signal by the control signal.

14 (NEW): The method according to claim 5, wherein the prescribed waveform two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery and, in said suppressing step, the separated color signal is two-dimensionally suppressed by the control signal.

15 (NEW): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the prescribed waveform two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery and, in said suppression processing, the separated color signal is two-dimensionally suppressed by the control signal.